

MAR 16 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT TO COLLABORATE TO ESTABLISH A STATE HIGHWAY
POLICE FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's roadways have become increasingly
2 dangerous, particularly during the previous year; and
3

4 WHEREAS, an alarming increase in pedestrian and motorcycle
5 fatalities, especially on Oahu, pushed the total number of
6 deaths in 2025 on the State's roadways to 129, which is more
7 than a twenty percent increase over the number of deaths in 2024
8 and the highest number since 2007; and
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10 WHEREAS, safety on Hawaii's roads could improve with
11 greater enforcement of traffic laws and better transportation
12 planning; and
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14 WHEREAS, county police departments are primarily
15 responsible for enforcing traffic laws on the State's roadways;
16 and
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18 WHEREAS, the establishment of a state highway police force
19 could supplement the efforts of county police departments; and
20

21 WHEREAS, collaboration between the Department of
22 Transportation and Department of Law Enforcement to establish a
23 state highway police force has the potential to significantly
24 improve traffic safety on Hawaii's roadways by combining
25 expertise, resources, and enforcement authority to address
26 traffic challenges more comprehensively and effectively; and
27

28 WHEREAS, a state highway police force would allow for
29 integrated strategies that blend transportation's emphasis on
30 infrastructure and traffic management with law enforcement's
31 focus on compliance and deterrence; and
32



S.R. NO. 70

1 WHEREAS, a state highway police force could be specially
2 trained and equipped to handle incidents on highways, ensuring
3 rapid clearance of crashes and minimizing secondary accidents
4 caused by congestion or confusion; now, therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
8 that the Department of Transportation and Department of Law
9 Enforcement are requested to collaborate to establish a state
10 highway police force; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation and
14 Director of Law Enforcement.
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16
17

OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and flourishes, is written over a horizontal line.